



### Brick Cleaning Information

Brick as manufactured and delivered to the site should require minimal or no cleaning. If cleaning is required to remove mortar or construction dirt, using cleaning agents recommended by General Shale, Inc. is preferred. If other materials are used, it is strongly suggested they be tested for suitability on disposable panels or non-critical wall areas.

- I. Keep the wall as clean as possible during construction in order to reduce the amount of cleaning necessary later.
- II. For best results cleaning should be performed as soon as possible, **but not until**, initial mortar set has occurred, (typically 2-5 days). The heavier mortar stains should be removed as completely as possible by mechanical means (paddles, scrapers, brushes, etc.)
- III. Select cleaning agent according to the following brick categories:
  - A. **Category A brick** may be cleaned with an all-purpose commercial cleaning agent (at manufacturers recommended concentration). **SureKlean® 600 Detergent** manufactured by **ProSoCo** or **NMD 80** manufactured by **EaCo Chem Inc.** are recommended.
  - B. **Category B brick** may be subject to metallic staining and discoloration if abusively cleaned with ordinary proprietary cleaners. **EaCo Chem Inc. NMD 80** or **ProSoCo's Vanatrol®** (at manufacturer's concentration) is recommended.
  - C. **Category C brick** have acid reactive coatings and may be subject to color range change if cleaned with acid-based cleaners. A mix of **1/2 Cup TSP** and **1/2 Cup Laundry Detergent** per 1 gallon of water is recommended.
- IV. If category classification is unknown, contact the local brick distributor, dealer, or General Shale representative.
- V. Test clean – Select an inconspicuous wall area to confirm method and cleaning agents are satisfactory. Make adjustments as indicated.
- VI. Pre-wet masonry – Thoroughly pre-wet wall area to be cleaned. The moisture absorbing capacity of the masonry must be satisfied before cleaners are applied.
- VII. Clean – Apply cleaning agent to masonry and scrub brick faces with stiff fiber brush.
- VIII. Rinse – Before cleaning agents can dry or be absorbed into masonry, rinse cleaner, dissolved mortar, and loosened dirt completely off the masonry wall.

**General Shale disclaims any and all responsibility for damages resulting from cleaning methods and materials.**

**Note: Additional brick cleaning information and guidelines for pressure washing methods can be found in the BIA (Brick Institute of America) Technical Note Number 20.**